REASONS WHY THE Duke OF Marlborough Cannot lay down his COMMANDS,

Deduced from the Principles of

LOYALTY, } { HONOUR,
GRATITUDE, } { INTEREST, &c.

With his Graces SPEECH to both Houses of Parliament.

In a Letter from the Country to a Friend in London.

SIR,

YOurs came to my hands, with an Account of the late Changes at Court, and your *Concern for the Publick Safety at this* unexpected *and* amazing *Turn of Affairs*, for so you are pleas'd to express your self, tho' for, what reason I am yet to seek. The Lord *Treasurer is divested of his Office*; you say *Men of* Revolution Principles *are going out, for others of different* Complexions *to come in*; and *those that have the best Intelligence* don't stick to affirm, that *our* Great General *holds a Resolution of* laying down *his Commands likewise upon this Occasion*; and why? *Because Mr. H---y is one of the Gentlemen that are entrusted with the Administration of Her Majesty's Exchequer.* In Answer to which *I must be plain* with you, and tell you, that it will be difficult to account for some Part of your Assertions. That his Lordship is removed from his High Post in the Treasury is most certain; that he held it long enough if not too long, by keeping others equally deserving of Her Majesty's Grace and Favour out of the Ministry, is fully as true; but that Men of *Revolution Principles* are turn'd out for Men of *different Complexions to* come *in*, you must give me leave to deny, as well as that a Personal Quarrel with any One, or a particular Disgust, (if there be any such Thing) can hinder so Great a Man as the Duke of *Marlborough* from pursuing the General Good.

These are Imputations that reflect on Her Majesty's Choice, as well as the Publick Spirit, that has so eminently distinguished it self in all His Grace's Actions; and I find my self under an Obligation of affirming, that if such as are Zealous for the *Succession* in the *House of Hannover* are Men of *Anti-Revolution* Principles, then such as have been lately admitted into Places of Trust at Court ought to fall under that denomination. But as I am in a particular Manner bound by the Duke of *Marlborough*'s great Services to these Kingdoms, as well as all *Europe*, to obviate and

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any doubts concerning his Conduct, ſo having told you that the Reaſon you ſuggeſt for his pretended Diſſatisfaction is none at all, I ſhall give you ſome of my own, why it is inconſiſtent with his Grace's Character, to ceaſe from the purſuit of Glory, which he has made ſo very great Advances in, and quit the Command of Armies, that muſt render his Name precious to all Poſterity and enroll it amongſt the greateſt Heroes of the paſt and preſent Times, unleſs he himſelf enters a Caveat againſt it, by putting a ſtop to thoſe Victories and Conqueſts the whole Confederacy promiſes it ſelf from his future Deportment.

The Reaſons I have to offer you in his Graces behalf are naturally Deduceable from his Principles of *Loyalty*, *Gratitude*, *Honour* and *Intereſt*, and proceed from ſuch Motives as the *Generality*, I may ſay the better part of Mankind, which he is an Illuſtrious Example to, are Govern'd by, which for the ſake of Method I ſhall proceed within their due Order.

In the firſt place therefore I ſhall endeavour to make appear, that this Suppoſitious Deriliction of his Commands is inconſiſtent with that *Loyalty* which he has been always ſo ſtrict an Obſerver of LOYALTY, as I take it, *conſiſts in an Implicit Obedience to the Lawful Commands of whatſoever Prince you are Subject to.* Now, for a Subject of what Degree or Title ſoever, to quit the Service of his Prince, at a Juncture when there is moſt Occaſion of it, and the preſſing Neceſſities of the State require his utmoſt Efforts to Reduce the Common Enemy to Reaſon, for him to Decline going forth to Fight his Country's Battles when he has it in his Power to do it with aſſurance of Succeſs; for him to ſlaken in the Vigorous Reſolutions he had before taken to ſtand up in Defence of violated Rights, and the Liberties of Mankind, when things are at their Criſis and Matters ripe for their Recovery, is nothing leſs than a direct Forfeiture of the Character he has before acquir'd by his *Fidelity* and *Valour*, and tends to the Encouragement of thoſe Powers his Sovereign is engag'd in War with, which merits a more Odious Name than I can think of, while I have the Image of Grace's Heroick Actions in my Mind.

To neglect doing Good when it is in any Man's Power, is one and the ſame Things as to do Evil; and ſuch an Indolence as this, ſuch a want of Compaſſion for Humane Injuries, and Failure in his Duty towards the Support of the Beſt of Princes, cannot fall in with, or bear any Relation to, that Reſignation to his Royal Miſtreſs's Commands, and that Regard this Illuſtrious General has always ſhewn to Her Majeſty's Perſon and Government. Nor is it poſſible, that he who has run ſo many Hazards for Her ſake, before and after She came to the Throne, was never found Tardy in the Minuteſt Breach of one of Her Orders, and lays nothing more at Heart than how to make his Services acceptable and well-pleaſing in Her Sight, ſhould take Umbrage at Her Exerciſe of a Prerogative that is inſeparable from any private Maſter of a Family, in Her Diſpoſal of Domeſtick Offices to whom She moſt graciouſly thinks fit.

No, this would not only call his *Loyalty* in Queſtion, but his *Wiſdom*, and he, by whoſe Counſels and Conduct we have hitherto flouriſh'd, would be juſtly ſuſpected of wanting Advice himſelf, which can never enter into the Thoughts of ſuch as are the leaſt appriz'd of his Conſummate Knowledge, or have any Inſight into the Paſſages of a *Life*, which is as much diſtinguiſh'd by his *Prudence* as by his *Valour* and as Eminent for a *Cautious* Procedure, as it is for *Heroical* Atchievements. Neither is it likely, that a Gentleman who has ſo much Government of his Paſſions, as the Duke, ſhould give Way to 'em upon ſo Trivial an Account as you take the Liberty to ſuggeſt; or almoſt poſſible that he ſhould forget he Labours for the better part of Mankind, the benefit of all *Europe*, for meer Prejudice againſt the Single Perſon, who, as I am told, was once in his Beſt Graces, and whom my Memory aſſures me, he thought fit to Honour with the firſt Notice of his *Maiden* Victories, at the Famous Battles of *Schellenburg* and *Hocſted*.

In the next place, this pretended Surrender of his Office is inconſiſtent with his *Gratitude*. A Grateful Man that is under Obligation for Benefits receiv'd ſuffers nothing to obliterate the Remembrance of them, but makes it his Buſineſs ſo to demean himſelf towards his Benefactor, as to make him ſatisfied in the Diſtribution of his Favours, and eaſie with himſelf for the Good Offices have been done by him. He Repines not at the Advancement of other by the ſame hand that rais'd him, but aquieſces in the Diſpenſations of his Patron, whatſoever Object they are fix'd upon. He ſtudies to deſerve more by being thankful for what he has; and by how much the

MAY 28, 1913
SUBSCRIPTION FOR
ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

the more he is Honour'd and Preferr'd, so much the more he endeavours to shew his Readiness to make suitable Returns for it. His own Obligations will not so much as admit of an Evil Thought of him that confers 'em, tho' he's diffusive of his Bounties to others, and always admits those that are his Benefactors Friends for his own. He has receiv'd so many good Things from him, that he thinks it impossible for him to do any Thing that is Ill, and the Preferments of others Raises his *Emulation*, not his *Envy*. In a word, he knows it to be his Duty not to be the less thankful, because there are *more* under the same good Circumstances with himself, and is always ready to let him that has oblig'd him see, that tho' others are *Sharers* with him in his Acts of Goodness and Friendship, hee'll admit of none in his *Returns* for what has been done for him.

These are the Sentiments that are put in Practice by a lower Order of Men than the Nobility; the poorest Plebeian, that has any Goodness in him, thinks himself bound to observe them; and if these have such an Influence, even over the Dregs of Mankind, what must they do upon Souls that have more exalted Ideas, and dilate themselves in the Survey of more Glorious and Flourishing Objects? What Images must my Lord Duke Retain of Her Majesty's Condescention and Goodness, when he unbends his Warlike Thoughts into the Consideration of what She has been pleas'd to do for him and his Family, when he Reflects upon what he, his Dutchess, and his Children, hold by Her Bounty?

To be invested with the highest Dignities of the Kingdom himself, made a *Duke*, *Generalissimo* of Her Majesty's Forces, *Ambassador Extraordinary*, and *Plenipotentiary*, *Master* of the *Ordinance*, &c. to have his Dutchess *Groom* of the *Stole*, First Lady of the Bed-Chamber, *Privy Purse*, *Chief Ranger* of *Windsor* Forest, *&c.* and his *Daughters* in the greatest and most Honourable Places of Trust near Her Majesty's Person, are sufficient Inducements for more grateful Returns than you are speaking of; and the many great Things Both Houses of Parliament have done for him, their Publick Acknowledgment of his Services, their Rewarding them by settling the Royal Mannors of *Woodstock* and *Woburn* upon Him and his Heirs for ever, their Confirming the Grant of 5000 *l. per Annum* out of the Post-Office, by an Act for that Purpose, are Considerations of too prevailing a Nature not to work upon a Soul like [illegible] have an Influence upon a Temper, that [illegible] these Motives, bears a Tendency to the [illegible] and Advantage of his Queen and Country.

I could add to the foregoing Engagements which his Grace is under to continue at the Head of Affairs those which are binding upon him from the *Emperor*, whose Subject he likewise is, by his Principality of *Mindelheim*, and the the Rich and Valuable Presents he has receiv'd from many of the Potentates that form the Grand Alliance, such as the Kings of *Poland* and *Prussia*, the Elector of *Hannover*, &c. but as these come not directly under our Notice, and have little or no Relation to the Grounds of Discontent you say he has receiv'd from hence, I shall wave this Article of *Gratitude* and proceed to that of *Honour*.

Honour to one that is the *Patron* of the Distress'd, and *Assertor* of the *Liberties* of Mankind, is dearer than that Life he has acquir'd it by, and has no Earthly Good to come in Competition with it. It stands on an Eminence superior to all the little Cavils which Vulgar Beings are liable to, and descends not to Piques and Animosities upon trifling Occasions. It considers the Noble Actions to which it owes its Original, and dwells upon the Comtemplation of of its own Increase. It is always pushing forward to its determinate End, and has the Goal, to which it bends its Course, never out of his Eye. It shrinks not at the Apprehension of being censur'd by Persons that know not how to put true Value on it, and is not diverted from the Pursuit of its own Glory, through the Want of it in others. To come nearer to the Subject I have taken in Hand, by how much the less distant and remote it is from its ultimate Reward, by so much the more it invigorates it self in its Approaches to it, and the Sight of its Beloved Object inflames its Desires to be possess'd of it.

Turpe est in Extremo deficere, is an *Axiom* that has been allow'd Time out of Mind; and it cannot enter into my Thoughts, or have a Place amongst my Suspicsons, That a General who has rescued Provinces from the Hands of an Oppressor, and got Footing in the Invader's own Territories; That has reduc'd as as many Towns in a Few Years, as seem'd Capable of Employing the Work of Ages to be Brought to Perfection; and rest-or'd *Flanders*, *Brabant*, and the Greatest Prat of

Faithful to the Obedience of their Lawful Sovereign; That has put the *Armies of the Aliens to flight* as often as they durst shew their Face, and almost won as many *Victories* as He has made *Campaigns*, should, when he is just with in reach of the Reward of all his Labours, and One Year more would put the Olive Branch into his Hands, and force the Common Enemy to present Him with the *Tokens* of *Peace*, suffer any other Passion to get the better of his Glory, and eclipse the shining Qualities the World adores Him for, by a Voluntary Retirement into Ease and Obscurity.

The Respect I bear to this Great Name forbids the very Thought of it; and I can no more be brought to believe, that the setting aside one of his Friends, or introducing one of his suppos'd Wishers upon the Stage Action, can induce Him to this Degeneracy from his own innate Ardour in that it is in his Power not to Love his Country, or be unconcern'd for its Prosperity, when it lyes in Him to make it hold the Ballance of all *Europe*, and be the Sole Arbitress of Peace and War.

He has given his Word to Both Houses of Parliament, That He will continue in the Discharge of his Duty; and we may assure our Selves they have not deserv'd so ill of Him; but He'll make it good by his Performances. His Answers to the Thanks that have been given Him by Lords and Commons are sufficient Indications of this Resolution: And we need go no farther than his own Words themselves to be satisfied of it. To prove this, I could give you the Particulars of what He has said in return to the Congratulations of the *Three Estates*, at the close of every Successful Campaign; but as they may be readily turn'd to in the Journals of Both Houses, I shall only instance in those of the Last Year 1709, which runs thus to the *Lords*.

My Lords,

I Hope you will do me the Justice to believe, There are very few Things could give me more Satisfaction than the favourable Approbation of my Service in this House; and I beg leave to assure your Lordships, it shall be the Constant Endeavour of my Life to Deserve the Continuance of your good Opinion.

And this to the *Commons*, who by reason of His Absence from Parliament, on Account of some Negotiations Abroad, Order'd their Speaker to transmit Him their Thanks, in his Letter to Sir *Richard Onslow*.

SIR,

I Am Extreamly sensible of the great Honour which the House of Commons have done me, in the Vote you have been pleas'd to transmit me by their Order. Nothing can give me more Satisfaction than to find the Services I endeavour'd to do the Queen and my Country acceptable to the House of Commons; and I beg the Favour of you to assure them I shall never think any Pain or Perseverance too great, if I may (*by God's Blessing*) be instrumental in Procuring a Safe and Honourable Peace *for Her Majesty and my Fellow-Subjects.*

I am with Truth,

SIR,

Your most Faithful Humble Servant;

MARLBOROUGH.

Now for Him to *assure* their Lordships in the *First*, that *it shall be the Constant Endeavour of his Life to deserve the Continuance of their good Opinion*, and give the *Commons* the like *Assurances* in the *Last*, That He *shall never think any Pains or Perseverance too great*, if He *may be Instrumental in Procuring a Safe and Honourable Peace*, is such an Evidence of his Intentions to keep on in the Service till he has procur'd this Peace, that I cannot but think it next to an Impossibility that He should have any such Thoughts of laying down his Command before he has done it. The Word of a Man of honour has been always held Sacred and Inviolate; and here you have not only his for his Continuance in the Defence of His Queen and Country, but his Hand and Seal, as a farther Assurance of his Constancy and Truth, and a Testimony that will rise in Witness against him shall He at any Time act Counter to His Promises, by the Resignation you are talking of, before He has brought about those desirable Ends which He has so long contended for. But as it would be *Criminal* in the Greatest Man breathing to degenerate into such an Inglorious State of Life, as a Retreat from his Country's Service, when the last finishing Stroke was only wanting to be put to all His Labours, so it cannot but be an Argument of the Highest Presumption in any one, even so much as to Surmise such a Design

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this, ever to have intruded into the Heroical Thoughts of so great a Commander? Wherefore I shall apply my self to my fourth and last *Reason*, which is of equal Prevalence with the former, and must convince you that you are altogether in the Wrong, which it is urg'd home to you and you are told, it's deduc'd from a Principle which governs Mankind (*viz.*) That of Interest.

Interest is like the *North Pole*, to which the Needle of Humane Affections must naturally point. The Poor, the Rich, the Good, the Great, the Wise, the Weak-hearted and Valiant, are naturally in Quest of it, and the Pursuit of it is as inseparable from all Conditions of Life as the very *Beings* we Exist by. To be desirous of Wealth, Honour and Advantage, is what is impress'd on our very Constitutions; and that Man fails of Course under the Character of no great *Politician* that Postpones his Profit put to very few Earthly Considerations, especially such as are Trifling, and of no manner of Weight. To be discontented at what you say gives Umbrage to the *Duke* would be an Argument of Weakness in that Judgment that has never yet been censur'd; and therefore needs no more to Convert you from this Erroneous Opinion, and bring you over to the same Faith I am of, than to inform you of the great Sallaries and Perquisites which belong to His and my Lady Dutchesses several Places. I have made a Diligent Enquiry into the true value of 'em, and their Yearly produce, and find, That as *General*, what with the Moneys arising from *Safe-Guards*, his Share of the Contributions, which are more and more extended into the Enemies Country, Presents, and other Contingencies, his Grace does not lay by less than 80000 *l.* a Campaign; That as Embassador and Plenipotentiary to the States of *Holland*, his ordinary Allowance from the Crown is 5000 *l.* That as Master of the Ordinance, his Salary and Perquisites 6000 *l. per Annum*; and as Colonel of Her Majesty's First Regiment of Foot-Guards he enjoys 3000 *l* more. That his Lady's *Groom* of the Stole's Place is 3000 *l.* Her Office of *Privy-Purse* at least as much more, and the *Rangery* of *Windsor* Forrest brings in 4000 *l. per Annum*; which Summ'd up together amounts to 104000 *l. per Annum*. Now for any one Person, especially such a One that knows the Value and true Use of Money, to fling up these Prodigious Sums only because the Queen, whom he Serves under, is Pleas'd to Displace a Friend or Two of his, and take others into Her Service in their Room, is so Foreign to his Grace his Prudence, and so little of a piece with his wonted Management, that I must tell You, you Reflect exceedingly upon Him, in making Him Guilty of a *Resolution* so incongruous with his own Advantage.

It must be confess'd, That the late Lord Treasurer was very timely in his Remittances; and that the Forces which his Grace has the Honour to Command in *Flanders* were well and duly paid under his Administration, which encourag'd them to enter upon Action, and without any Difficulty undergo the Fatigues of War; but if the same Funds are all ow'd towards their Subsistence under the Gentlemen that have the Care of the Exchequer, as there were when it was under his Direction, why should not they have the same Effect upon our Warlike Operations, and render him as capable of finishing the War with the same Glory as He has hitherto carried it on.

It would be an Injury to his Grace's Character to suppose that the Care of his Army alone should engross their Consideration; He never desir'd such a Thing of the late Treasurer, and will not do it of these Gentlemen, since our Fleets and Forces in *Spain* and *Portugal* are equally under their Care, and should be equally maintain'd and look'd after, in order to their being productive of Agreeable Consequences, and I am perswaded that his Grace lays the Common Good more at Heart than to give Way to the Suggestions you make mention of, which are too Mean to have any Influence upon a Soul that cannot let it self down from the survey of its own Greatness, to entertain such Ungenerous Conceptions.

I agree with you, that the *French* King has lost a *very Powerful Enemy* by the Lord *Godolphin's Removal* from Court; but you must like wise hold with me, that he has gain'd Five more in the Accession of the Earl *Poulet*, Mr. *Harley*, Mr. *Pager*, Sir *Thomas Mansel*, and Mr. *Benson*; and if our Enemies rejoyce at this Turn of Affairs, which they'll in all Probality have reason to be sorry for, this very Joy of Their's for His Friend's Removal should so Animate and Excite His *Grace* to a

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suitable Resentment, as to make him never Sheath his Sword till He had taken his full Revenge of 'em, for it.

This brings a Poetical Story into my Memory, of as Great a Feign'd Hero as his Grace is a Real One, and reminds me of what is Fabled of the Valiant *Achilles* at the Death of his Friend *Patroclus*. He knew that it would be a Cause of Triumph to the *Trojans*, and therefore did not, as is usual with Common Mourners, give himself wholly up to Grief on this Melancholy Occasion, but took measures suitable to the Reparation of so great a Loss, and Arm'd himself afresh, that the Enemy might have no Advantage; it being more adequate to the Character the Poet gave of him, to rush into the Battle, and Sacrifice Thousands to the Manes of the Dead, than to surrender up himself to a Discontent that would be of no manner of Use to his Friend or Himself.

The Application is Natural enough, and left with you to Contemplate upon. I have very little more to say, then that most of the Poets th are Assiduous now-a-days in the Display of H Grace's Heroic Enterprizes, would be at a Lo how to carry on the Comparison between him a the General above mention'd, should he take su Measures as you intimated he is inclin'd to.

Thus having been as good as my Word, going through what I propos'd in his Grac Vindication, and made appear that he cannot l down his Commands in Point of *Loyalty*, *Gratitu Honour* and *Interest*, I submit these Cursory Re sons to Your Disposal, being ready to acquiesce whatsoever Opinion You shall be pleas'd to ha of Them, or Him, who is,

SIR,

Your most Assured Friend,

Tunbrid :, H.
Aug. the 10*th*, 1710.

FINIS.

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